Revival of National Crop Insurance Scheme

2094. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revive National Crop Insurance Scheme for increasing the participation of farmers and making the scheme more efficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from Maharashtra Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government is already implementing the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) for covering the risk of crop loss due to natural calamities.

(c) and (d) A proposal for raising the indemnity level under the NAIS to 90% and paying 100% premium subsidy was received from the State Government of Maharashtra. The proposal was not accepted because of increased financial liability of the Government.

Agriculture lending rate

2095. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister had agreed to give a new deal for agriculture;

(b) if so, whether this proposal of the Finance Ministry to provide a new deal to agriculture has not been released, so far;

(c) if so, the main programmes of action the Ministry has decided to provide for promotion of agriculture in the country;

(d) whether due to slow rate of private sector investments in agriculture, the Ministry has urged for separate agriculture lending rate on the pattern of weaker sections and other such categories; and

(e) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Task force report on National Policy on Co-operatives

2096. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force appointed to implement a National Policy on Co-operatives has discussed the need for a single legislation for Co-operative societies; and

(b) if so, by what time the task force is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Task Force has recommended a single liberalised Co-operative Societies Act for a State.

(b) The Task Force has since submitted its report.

Encouraging Agriculture on Hilly Land

2097. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to encourage agriculture on hilly land in the country where rain-fall is in abundance;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes in the North-Eastern States;

(c) how many new varieties of crops for the hilly area have been discovered with details on achievements; and

(d) what would be their extent of productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Development of agriculture in North-Eastern and hilly regions is one of the thrust areas of the Tenth Plan.